

The First One Hundred Days: Leaving No Special Interest Behind

Executive Summary

Prosperity with a Purpose

- Bush and his administration have been talking down the economy in order to enact a huge tax cut for the wealthy that could lead us back to federal budget deficits that threaten the economy. The wealthiest 1% of Americans get 45% of the tax cuts, while the Bush plan provides no tax relief at all for 12.2 moderate and low-income million families with children.
- This huge tax cut not only fails to provide immediate relief for working families but will crowd out much needed investments for both the short-term and long-term economy, like science and technology, small business, agriculture and job training.
- Finally, the Bush Administration instead of doing anything real to bring down energy prices for consumers, has been talking about an energy policy designed for his special interest friends – the oil and gas industries – that will hurt the environment.

Leave No Child Behind

- The most important investment that loses out to the tax cut is our children – particularly the 43 million children in public schools. Bush provides only a \$1.4 billion increase in education (leaving aside increase in the Pell Grant) this year. He eliminates the class size reduction program, zeros out funding for school modernization, and freezes funding for after-school and Safe and Drug-Free schools programs
- The huge Bush tax cut cuts more than \$1 billion in funding for a range of children's programs including child abuse prevention, Boys' and Girls' Clubs, training for doctor at pediatric hospitals, and libraries among others.

Compassionate Conservative

- Bush has named a cabinet widely hailed as "more conservative than Reagan's," to oversee many industries from which they were hired and have profited.
- There is no compassion in siding with special interest contributors over seniors needing prescriptions, workers, environment, and those seeking health care.

Change the Tone

- Bush has unilaterally rolled back a series of environmental regulations – including overturning new arsenic standards in water, reversed his campaign pledge on clean air, suspending new clean-up requirements for mining companies, and threatening to challenge a logging ban on nearly 60 million acres of national forest -- on behalf of the energy, chemical, and timber industries that contributed to his campaign.
- Instead of working in a bipartisan way to make compromises on behalf of the American people, the Bush Administration has rammed through anti-worker safety legislation that threatens hundreds of thousands of workers.

- On taxes, ergonomics, and the patients bill of rights, Bush has chosen to try to strong-arm his way through Washington, instead of just negotiating with Democrats.

Uniter, Not a Divider

- Bush has chosen Partisanship over Bi-partisanship on a whole range of issues including taxes, and the Patients Bill of Rights.
- Instead of reaching out to women, Bush on his first day began his assault on a women's right to choose by denying funding for international family planning.
- Instead of reaching out to all Americans, Bush has sent the message of "get over it" regarding election reform, and has refused to count all Americans for redistricting.
- Bush has closed or attempted to close the Offices of Women, Race, and AIDs, those charged with bringing women and minorities to the decisionmaking table.
- He has brought on the conservative Federalist Society to make judicial appointments, while shunning the American Bar Association that has given professional advise on appointments for the past 50 years.

Reformer with Results

- Bush is blocking bipartisan managed care reform, failing on election reform, and is promoting campaign finance principles that real reformers said were designed to defeat campaign reform.
- Bush has proposed a prescription drug plan for seniors that only pharmaceutical companies that contributed to his campaign could love. The plan on behalf of his drug companies friends is so inadequate for seniors that even Senate Republicans have declared his plan "dead on arrival."
- Failed to even present reform proposals to address the long-term needs of Medicare and Social Security.

Democrats Ready to Work with the President for America's Families

- Democrats hope to return to an era of bipartisanship in which we work together to address the problems of America's families. Democrats will work with President Bush to fund excellent schools for our children, increase the minimum wage, enact a Medicare prescription drug benefit for seniors, provide a responsible tax cut for all families, and enact bipartisan managed care reform, election reform, and bipartisan campaign reform. We stand ready to work with this President as we move into the next 100 days to realize these important goals on behalf of the working families, instead of the special interests.

First 100 Days Progress Report for President Bush: Leaving No Special Interest Behind

<i>Bush Priorities</i>	<i>Grade</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Education	Incomplete, Past Due	Said this was his top priority, but instead has made tax cuts his main focus. As a result, education bill is just starting to move through Congress. He has shortchanged funding for education programs in order to pay for the huge tax cut for the wealthy.
Tax Cut for Middle-Income Families	F, Overdue	Would be able to enact a fair and fiscally sound tax plan if he would work in a bipartisan way, but instead is playing hardball to push a huge tax cut for the wealthy contributors and businesses who financed his campaign. Specifically, businesses that are part of the Tax Reform Coalition gave nearly \$400,000 to the Bush campaign.
Military	F	Last summer said "Help is on the Way" but Bush has failed to come forward with his own plan to improve low morale, military pay, missile defense and strategic review key priorities. At the beginning of the year rejected the Joint Chiefs of Staff proposed supplemental appropriation to address many of these priorities.
Social Security	F	Has done nothing more than pay lip-service in the State of the Union.
Medicare Reform/Prescription Drugs	F	Has failed to come forward with a Medicare Reform proposal. Put forward a temporary placebo prescription drug plan that even Republicans declared dead on arrival on behalf of the Pharmaceutical Industry, which contributed \$1.4 million to the Bush campaign and \$17.8 million to Republicans
Faith-Based Initiative	D	After making it a cornerstone of the campaign, everyone realized that the Bush principles sounded better than is practical to implement, and has received a cool reception in both Congress and from religious leaders.

Other Priorities		
Environmental Protection	F-minus	Has rolled back a series of environmental protection regulations including arsenic in drinking water and he has done this on behalf of the chemical, mining, timber, and the oil and gas industries, which gave the Bush campaign \$3 million, and Republicans almost \$50 million.
Worker Safety	F	Repealed worker safety standards (ergonomics) in order to please business and employer groups that contributed \$2 million to the Bush campaign, and \$28.3 million to Republicans.
Energy	F	Has an Energy Task Force that is secretly developing an energy plan that is pro-drilling, anti-environment, and pro-nuclear. Of course, big oil gave \$3.2 million to the Bush campaign, and \$25.6 million to Republicans.
Patients' Bill of Rights	F	Promised to block and veto meaningful bipartisan bill on behalf of the Health Benefits Coalition, which contributed \$2.7 million to the Bush campaign and \$41.7 million to Republicans
Campaign Finance Reform	F	Is it any wonder? Passage of meaningful campaign reform would break the link between special interest money and the way Washington works.
General Comments Has let special interests who financed his campaign -- including the right wing conservatives who helped Bush in the difficult primaries -- assert control over the agenda, and in the process has left American families behind.		